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THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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THE CONVENTION

AN editorial appeared in the *Montreal Daily Star* on Saturday, May 31st, entitled "Lending a Hand", which comments upon the suggestion for a great convention of all the people to determine the fundamental causes underlying Canadian social and industrial disturbances. The *Star* says: — "The suggestion made to the Industrial Relations Commission that the government should summon a great convention at which all classes might meet to discuss Canada's troubles, her plans and her prospects, would be more valuable had certain irresponsible elements not already rejected a somewhat similar suggestion in a smaller field.

"When the Mathers Commission to inquire into the whole field of industrial dispute held its first hearing in the West a general invitation was sent out to those who could assist it to a more complete understanding of conditions to attend hearings and give evidence. That invitation was immediately refused by certain so-called labor leaders on the ground that there could be no compromise with capital. In consequence the Commission was deprived of whatever assistance might have been given it through the experience and local knowledge of those who refused to lend a hand.

"To the credit of labor in the East of Canada it has shown every disposition to assist the Commission in an arduous and difficult task. It is a good sign for the future that it should have done so. It is going to need the best brains we have to steer the ship past dangerous shoals.

And it most certainly is the duty of every one having special knowledge to give those on the bridge the best of their knowledge."

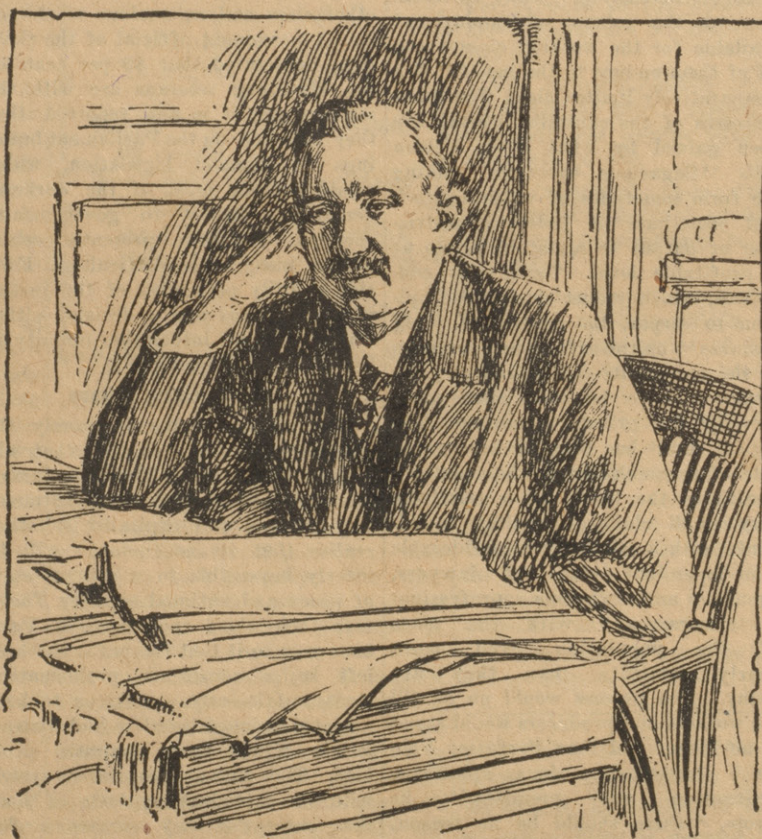
we were intimately identified with its relation to the Commission, the workmen, through their representatives, spent weeks in daily consultation to formulate the special knowledge at their command so that the Industrial Relations Commission might have the priceless advantage of the experience and knowledge of the men who had spent their

Industrial Relations Commission were revised no fewer than eleven times. The difficulty of the task can be appreciated when it is known that more than one hundred and twenty-five separate organizations were invited to express their opinions before the sub-committee which had in hand the preparation of the document. The ablest leaders of the entire movement co-operated wholeheartedly and gave their time unsparingly.

Where, then, is the rhyme or reason of intimating that a convention of all the people, embracing the trades unionists, the manufacturers and the various municipalities of Canada "would be more valuable had certain irresponsible elements not already rejected a similar suggestion in a smaller field". Certainly, if the fundamental thought behind the organization of such a convention is right, the mere fact that the representatives of labor in a district under the sway of the One Big Union idea refused to meet the Commission is neither an indictment of the idea nor an invalidation of the detailed plan. As a matter of fact it was the Winnipeg situation which inspired the proposal for a convention. To my mind it has accentuated the need for common understanding between the four great classes which clearly constitute the Canadian Commonwealth, namely, the organized workers, the manufacturers, the unorganized public and the farmer.

The prosperity of the one must mean the prosperity of the other and the failure of the one will ultimately involve the failure of all. Temporarily any one of the groups might prosper to the detriment of any one or combination of the other classes but in the end the happiness of the

(Continued on page 9.)



J. H. THOMAS, M. P.

General secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen who, as one of the triple alliance of Labor delegates, has won notable concessions from the British Government. He is at present in the United States, and Canadian railwaymen are hopeful that he will pay a visit to this country.

It is perfectly true that in one city laborites refused to appear before the Commission, but it is equally true that in every other city of Canada, as in the city of Montreal, of which we have special knowledge because

lives in the development of the movement. Sundays, holidays and every spare moment was devoted, without pay or remuneration, to this difficult task. In the city of Montreal, the documents presented before the In-



Our OTTAWA LETTER

The present situation in our industrial world, which, if it has not already, will soon become common to all industrial worlds, is no matter of surprise to intelligent observers. The crisis has caught our politicians and captains of finance and industry unawares simply because few of them are either original thinkers or students of the thoughts and observations of others. More than one far-seeing publicist prophesied the present events in black and white two or three years.

Such a one was Professor Thorstein Veblen, Norwegian by birth but American by adoption, who is now on the staff of the University of Missouri. Prof. Veblen had already written at least two notable books "The Theory of the Leisure Class" and "Imperial Germany and the Industrial Revolution" when in 1916 he published "The Nature of Peace and the Terms of its Perpetuation." In the first section he analysed the relation of the state to war and peace, and the nature and uses of patriotism. Then he analysed the possible results of the war, discussed without bias what would be the result of a German victory, and pointed out why the western democracies must spare no efforts to secure victory. He then analysed the position of the various allies, their system of economics and government, and in the last chapter proceeded to give as his deliberate opinion which he backed up by sound arguments, that the conclusion of political peace at large which is now in process of accomplishment at Paris, would merely be the prelude to the beginning of a bitter economic and class struggle in every country.

Division in New Form.

He pointed out that one of the main agencies in maintaining national partisan solidarity in the British, French, American and other national units and in staving off the outbreak of any desperate internal struggle had been the disturbed state of international affairs, and in particular the menace of Imperial Germany. Now that the latter has disappeared and a nominal state of peace has been achieved, the waters are out. In this contingency Prof. Veblen felt certain that the current notions of the rights of ownership and disposal of property, particularly of investment, would come up for consideration and revision. There would inevitably be dire alarm among the possessory classes and people of conservative minds at such proposals and profound scepticism at the possibility of securing any substitute for the current exploitation of the industrial arts by capitalistic sabotage. "Therefore," said Professor Veblen, "it should accordingly be a possible outcome of such a peace as would put away international dissension that

the division of classes would come on in a new form, between those who stand upon their ancient rights of mastery and exploitation and those who are unwilling longer to submit. And it is quite within the possibilities of the case that the division of opinion on these matters might presently shift back to the old familiar ground of international hostilities; undertaken partly to put down civil disturbances in given countries, partly by the more archaic, or conservative, peoples to safeguard the institutions of the received law and order against inroads from the side of the iconoclastic ones." Here is the reason for the Allied campaign in Russia and the labor elements in all countries are acting in their own best interests when they demand the cessation of operations against Bolsheviks.

"Sagacious Sabotage".

He goes on to show how the war has given a great impetus to invention and "speeding up" processes. There is a continued flow of new contrivances and expedients designed to supersede the old. Many of them decrease the volume of employment available for the working classes and all of them endure to the benefit of a comparatively limited class. The great successes of the capitalist world have been gained by what Prof. Veblen calls "Sagacious sabotage" taking the form sometimes of watering stock and sometimes of judicious restriction of output to maintain prices at a profitable level. Under war conditions, which reduce democratic opinion to torpor, the control of "big business" on the affairs and fortunes of the community was bound to grow firmer and to be used more unreservedly for private advantage. The logical result has been an accelerated rate of accumulation of the country's wealth in the hands of a relatively very small class of wealthy individuals, with a relatively inconsiderable semi-dependent class of lawyers, agents, and various professional classes, and with the mass of the population even more nearly destitute than they are today. The process would go on till the workers and producers would stand it no longer and then Professor Veblen prophesied serious upheavals. "Granting the premises," he wrote, "there should be no reasonable doubt as to this eventual cleavage between those who have and those who have not; and of the premises the only item that is not an accomplished fact is the installation of peace at large."

The crisis has arrived in Canada more quickly than in other countries because here owing to the complete absence of any reasonable radical party from the political field, capitalist exploitation had reached a more atrocious pitch than elsewhere, and because the artificial character of our industrial world had left a small-

er wage fund available for distribution than elsewhere and raised the cost of living to greater heights.

Advent Hastened.

The real source of trouble is the present state of industrialism, whose real rewards accrue to a limited minority and generally practised system of combination to raise prices, which gives its character to the modern state of business enterprise. Why should not the workers also resort to it? The existing capitalist system is a clear instance of an institutional arrangement which has in the effluxion of time and by changes in conditions come to work at cross purposes with the first principle of the democratic creed, which is "Live and let live". Without the war the discrepancy was due to reach a critical pass sooner or later. Its advent had been merely hastened.

The possessory classes intend obviously to stand upon their prescriptive rights, for the enforcement of which established law provides a resort to coercion. This might have been successfully carried out in pre-war days, but it happens today that large numbers of the working classes have been trained to arms, and it also happens that the veterans are as keenly conscious of the deficiencies of the existing social order as any other class and as anxious to change it. A prominent official of the G.W. V.A. has stated that 80 per cent. of the Winnipeg veterans are with the strikers and it is now reported that they marched on the Parliament buildings to demand legislation, which would concede most of the workers' demands. Resort to governmental coercion therefore presents certain almost insuperable difficulties. Each side is fully persuaded of the justice of their claims and a decision either way will be an intolerable iniquity in the eyes of the losing side.

Only Opening Phase

The present strike is merely the opening phase of a conflict that will soon be world wide. The defenders of the current scheme of investment, big business and capitalist sabotage realise that its continuance will be utterly impossible in a general state of peace and national security. Therefore their chief spokesmen at Paris have seen to it that the peace has been left in a somewhat problematical state, sufficiently precarious to keep national animosities alert and distract men's minds from domestic problems. The outworn capitalist system with its attendant methods of business enterprise may survive a few years, but according to all the teachings of history outworn institutions inevitably pass out in the end. Witness the divine right of kings, once a generally accepted fact. The present system can only be maintained and preserved at the cost of civil war. The possessory classes can only retain their existing privileged position by force of arms. They would, of course, fail, but on the other hand grave damage, discomfort and shame would follow resort to force for the displacement of an out-worn institution. Professor Veblen in his book

warned the possessory classes "to put events in train for the present abatement of the rights of ownership and of the price system in which these rights take effect" and as a body they have failed to do so.

In Britain there have been signs of an awakening to the realities of the situation and with their usual political shrewdness the dominant classes have already made far-reaching abatements of their special prerogatives. Here on this continent a few far-seeing employers like Henry Ford and Charles Schwab have taken a tumble to things and set an example; in Canada the Massey-Harris Company have already made some timely adjustments. But in Canada our possessories have neither the capacity or the inclination to think and plan ahead to meet contingencies and our Cabinet and Parliament is absolutely incapable of performing that function for them.

Without Guidance.

Hence we have drifted into an industrial crisis which could easily have been foreseen and to a certain degree provided for, without any national guidance or any understanding of the underlying realities of the situation. Parliament is helpless and hopeless and might as well be sent on a trip en masse to Honolulu. The Cabinet is torn by dissensions, waterlogged with nonentities, beset with pressure from all the greedy gangs of capitalists in the country, to use the strong hand, and terrified to comply with their demands, and therefore driven to take refuge in helpless inaction. It has manifested its complete incompetence to govern the country; even in Winnipeg the Citizens Committee speak of it in a language that lacks neither fire nor color and demand its immediate doom. If we are not to be plunged in a disastrous sea of troubles, we must have a new government at an early date and a new Parliament as well. And in that Parliament Labor must be adequately represented. Mr. J. H. Thomas bluntly told the labor leaders of New York that if they abstained from political action, they would fight with one hand tied behind their backs and they must organise an independent political labor movement. The State Federation of Labor in the great industrial state of Pennsylvania has just determined to form a political party and the idea is spreading like wildfire through every other state. In Canada a beginning has already been made but there must be no cessation under the idea that industrial action alone is sufficient.

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The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the people who make its laws.

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Read the platform of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, sent on request.

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There are now hints of a fall session in which event there will be no general election this year. But it behooves Labor to be sedulously preparing the ground, creating an organization for each constituency which is to be contested and looking out for efficient candidates. It is nothing short of a misfortune that Labor should have only two representatives in the present House of Commons, most of whose members have no interest in or understanding of labor problems. Within the next four years there may well be a Labor Government in power both in Britain and Australia, and the Canadian Parliament must be provided with a body of members who will in some degree talk the same political language.

To deal with the doings of Parliament does not require much space this week as they were singularly uninteresting. Perhaps it was the calm before the storm, for next week there is to be a full-dress debate on industrial unrest and its causes, and on Thursday Sir Thomas White will bring down his long-delayed budget. There will be some concessions to low-tariff sentiment, but not enough probably to induce Mr. Crerar, the special representative of the farmers, to stay in the Government or a dozen other western members to support it. The Premier and Mr. Sifton made their appearance in the House on Monday and were warmly received. In answer to a query by Mr. C. Murphy, Mr. A. K. Maclean for the government disclaimed any knowledge of the spread of a sympathete strike to other western cities, at a time when everybody else in Ottawa was fully aware of it. "No official knowledge" is a delightful subterfuge to evade unpleasant predicaments.

The Naval estimates were up on Monday and Mr. Ballantyne made a long and labored reply, obviously prepared by subordinates, to the long indictment proffered against his department by Mr. Duff of Lunenburg at a previous sitting. He made a few good points, but was not very convincing, and in the afternoon Mr. Duff replied with an extended list of charges to which Mr. J. H. Sinclair and others made additions. Mr. Sinclair called attention to the discrepancy between the sentences of 18 months imprisonment passed upon seven young sailors who declined to put to sea because their ship was unseaworthy, as she truly was, and the mere dismissal from the service given as punishment to Lt. R. D. Legate of the Hochelaga who was said to have turned tail in face of a German submarine. The naval administration during the war has teemed with scandals and muddles, but the Government refused to grant the public enquiry which the opposition asked for. Mr. McMaster failed to elicit information about the charges made by the Ottawa Citizen to the effect that the Naval Department, as the result of pressure from interested parties had rejected a tender by its own staff to instal wireless on our government vessels at a cost of \$43 per ship per annum and awarded the contract to the Marconi

Company at \$1,000 per ship per annum, an amazing performance if true.

On Tuesday Major Andrews, Winnipeg, raised some discussion about the Winnipeg strike and inquired what was the Government's policy in regard to collective bargaining. As our representative at the Peace Conference at the Peace Sir Robert Borden assented to the labor clauses which called for recognition of the right of association and we were told what heroic work he was doing in the cause of democracy. Now it turns out before he can begin to frame an industrial policy for Canada, he must await the report of his perambulating Commission.

The rest of Tuesday was consumed in a long and wearisome recital by Sir Edward Kemp of the glories and triumphs of the Overseas Ministry of Militia. As Mr. Lemieux rudely

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**WHENE'ER A NOBLE
DEED IS WUGHT**

Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoken noble thought,
Our hearts, in glad surprise,
To higher levels rise. . .

Honor to those words or deeds
That help us in our daily needs,
And by their overflow
Raise us from what is low.

—Longfellow.

* * * * *

pointed out, he omitted to deal with some of the most serious of the charges. The arrant snobbery of the average plutocrat in Canada was well illustrated when Sir Edward proceeded to read out the detailed pedigrees of his staff as proof positive of their efficiency and integrity. On Wednesday there was again some feeble discussion of the strike situation. If the Opposition possessed one single man who had genuine democratic sympathies and a clear understanding of the industrial situation and the economic causes which have led up to it, he could have tied the government hopelessly up and covered them with ridicule. In the afternoon there was a debate about the reclassification of the civil service and bonuses to certain classes in it. In the evening The Railway Act Consolidation Bill was up for consideration and all the lobbyists of the railway interests were busy in the corridors. Mr. Joseph Armstrong (Lambton) proposed that our internal shipping rates, which are rigged by a close monopoly, should come under the control of the opposition but the Government resisted the eminently just proposal and with the help of reactionaries in the opposition defeated it. Unless the

No Commodity Theory Accepted In Far West

Officers of the Washington state federation of labor have published the 15 labor laws and amendments passed by the last legislature. It is declared that "this is the greatest accomplishment ever made at any one session, and yet lacks a great deal of all that labor desired."

The list includes an anti-injunction law similar to the Clayton act. The law declares that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce.

Pioneer legislation in this or any other state provides for state and district boards, on which labor is represented, to reduce accidents in industry. Employers and employed will select their own representatives.

The first-aid law is amended so the state shall furnish artificial limbs and lenses. The board can reject any contract that does not protect the worker and can supply the injured worker with another doctor where the doctor provided fails in satisfactory results. The board can also engage a specialist and charge the expense to the contract. These amendments are a blow to company doctors.

The widow's pension is increased from \$20 to \$30 a month, and the maximum for widows with a family from \$35 to \$50.

An industrial code commission will study industrial problems and make recommendations to the next legislature.

All state, county and city printing must be done within the state and the union scales of the Typographical union are protected.

Public school teachers will henceforth receive equal pay, regardless of sex.

An amendment to the mining code provides that where a ventilating fan is stopped at a gaseous mine employees must not enter the mine for at least 12 hours after the fan is started and the mine has been examined and reported safe.

A small claims court is established to dispose of cases involving

progressive group in the Liberal ranks get control of the forthcoming convention, Liberalism in Canada as an active force is doomed to disappear in favor of more virile democratic organizations. Thursday was a holiday and Friday was largely devoted to Mr. Crerar's estimates which always have an easy passage owing to his genuine popularity. Members on both sides of the House vied with one another in their compliments on his administration and if he leaves the government one of its strongest pillars will have been removed.

J. A. S.

sums less than \$20. This will protect the migratory workers who can now secure small amounts of wages without the expense of a lawyer.

The loosely drawn criminal syndicalist bill, which was passed over the governor's veto in the early days of the legislature, has been repealed. The new law, it is stated, "does not establish anything not now thoroughly covered by the criminal anarchy code, and has this advantage that it makes its provisions applicable to big business or others who would use force to prevent industrial or political reform as well as making it applicable to those who might use such methods to promote it."

The mothers' pension law is liberalized.

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Canadian Railroader
WEEKLY

*The Official Organ of the Fifth
Sunday Meeting Association
of Canada*


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C. P. R. Conductor.

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Tariff Commission and Convention Ideas Advocated Before Industrial Relations Commission

Planks In Platform of Fifth Sunday Meeting Association Outlined By President of Trades and Labor Council — President of Association Also Told Commissioners of Convention Plan and of Mistrust In Present Parliament.

When the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations sat at Montreal last week-end leading planks in the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association platform were presented by Mr. J. A. Woodward, President of the Association, and Mr. J. T. Foster, President of the Trades and Labor Council, speaking on behalf of the organized workers of Montreal. The Tariff Commission plan and the plan for a great convention were both outlined.

Mr. J. T. Foster said:

"It is assumed that many of our difficulties—Industrial and Economic—arise from the want of confidence in the present Government, the lack of modern labor laws and of legislative measures protecting the working classes and the people at large from the encroachments and exploitation of food profiteers, trusts and capitalists. This situation is still aggravated by frequent misunderstandings and differences between capital and labor. The entire situation has become serious owing to the fact that at this date no comprehensive constructive and practical plans for reconstruction have been put into effect. Out of this state of affairs, disorder and confusion has arisen, accounting for the national unrest and present business stagnation.

The detailed causes are as follows: 1. The workers are not properly represented in the governing body. We find fault with the fact that the great majority of the legislators are lawyers who know little of practical manufacturing, and less about the conditions under which the working class are required to live.

2. The growing conviction that the present government is largely controlled by the agricultural vote of the west. As a consequence no real effort, seeking the control of food prices, has been made.

3. The situation is accentuated by procrastination of the Government in the programme of repatriation and the civil re-establishment of the soldiers.

4. The failure of the Government to formulate comprehensive and practical plans on the reconstruction issue.

5. The dissatisfaction of the people, arising out of the question of the non taxable bonds, which to a great measure has shifted the indebtedness of the country and its future obligations upon the backs of the working people.

6. The suppression of free speech, free press, right of assembly and other restrictions, through ord-

ers in council, are directly responsible for the strong feeling of resentment.

7. The failure of the Government to relieve unemployment through comprehensive and constructive plans of public works, and its inertia in developing the shipbuilding programme.

8. The establishment of elaborate credit systems throughout the Dominion among farmers, wholesalers and retailers has created excessive interest charges which multiply the burdens not only of the consumer, but of all concerned.

9. The refusal of a large number of employers to recognize and deal with labor organizations, and their opposition to collective bargaining.

10. Lack of a system by means of which a minimum wage may be established in accordance with the cost of living, and for the reduction of hours of labor to suit production. Opposition to collective bargaining has retarded progress in his direction.

11. The continuous depreciation of the purchasing power of the dollar and the ever present bogey of unemployment can be designated as among the fundamental causes of unrest.

12. Uncertainty of fiscal policy, which has depressed business and caused unemployment."

Nationalization.

Dealing with the question of social welfare, Mr. Foster said they were firmly of the opinion that Canada should be abreast of the most advanced countries in the matter of pensions for the aged. They should be protected by a system of State insurance which would guarantee them immunity from poverty in old age.

In view of the great volume of casualized labor in Canada, some form of unemployment insurance was necessary to stabilize the future. He favored some form of state sickness insurance, which would protect the workingman and his family. Owing to the ever increasing frequency of surgical operations and

the abnormal tariff adopted by the medical profession, generally, workmen and their families were precluded from proper treatment and were actually suffering and he believed that the only solution is the nationalization of the medical profession.

Compulsory Education.

Child labor should be excluded from industrial establishments up to the age of sixteen and birth certificates and teachers' vouchers should be made the basis of the law seeking to regulate this question. He favored an advanced system of educational and vocational training; primary education to be free and compulsory and higher education to be accessible to all. Capacity and aspirations should not be thwarted or limited by the accident of material environment. As to labor accidents and industrial diseases he believed that compensation laws should cover all labor accidents and occupational diseases and be uniform in their application, in every province, so that the worker would be afforded the same protection from coast to coast.

He advocated a system of providing clean sanitary homes for the working class, at a minimum of cost, through Government grants, and the enactment of stringent laws preventing the use of the domicile for industrial purposes. He was decidedly in favor of maternity grants and pensions for mothers with dependent children and believed that no mother should suffer hardship because of her maternity.

Working hours should be reduced proportionate with production, but in no case should the work day exceed eight hours per day. This principle has been universally accepted in Europe and his Council recommended the immediate enactment of such legislation in Canada.

Unscrupulous Means.

Turning to the high cost of living, Mr. Foster said the causes were an unscrupulous manipulation of food prices and commodities through excessive exportation, and as remedial measures urged the fixing of prices, commodities, profits, nationalization of cold storage, and government regulation of exportations.

The outstanding facts of the entire situation briefly were: That farmers actively engaged in producing food-stuffs constituted 37 p.c. of the population and the other 63 p.c. who followed other industrial pursuits, consumed what the farmer is able to produce. There was a great superabundance of food to feed Canadians well but those who got in control of it produced an artificial shortage by sending it to the four corners of the globe where they secured high prices for it after creating famine prices in the very country which was the base of production. The law of supply and demand, as far as Canada was concerned, had absolutely nothing to do with the situation. The cold storage plant was the convenient medium through which the operation

was made possible. The increased cost of labor was not important as a factor. In terms of dollars and cents, even where the workman was securing double the wages he did before the war, the dollar that he received only purchased about 40 cents worth of goods. The worker was in reality in a much worse position than he was in 1914.

Must be Action.

"The question of the hour is food control and a reduction of the cost of living", declared Mr. Foster. "Either our government officials will take a hold of this situation and bring relief to a people who are slowly but surely starving to death or the masses will take the matter into their own hands and there will be a reduction and a levelling out that will not only shatter the prices of food but annihilate the whole system of producing for profit. The people feel and they rightly feel that when they work and struggle and suffer for the upbuilding and development of a country and when they give their children in defence of it, they are entitled to food, clothing, shelter and some leisure to enjoy them and it is the duty of the executive brains of the country, our politicians and our so-called experts on food statistics to become active in bringing relief to the masses."

Nothing Practical.

Dealing with co-operation in industry, Mr. Foster said that on the subject of profit sharing they had made an examination of the various plans that had been brought forward, but had failed so far, to find any that in their opinion was practical. They were inclined to favor the idea of limiting the profits of the concerns, operating in Canada to a fair fixed percentage of profits based on the fullest and fairest consideration for the development of plant and extension of business growth, after which the remainder would be absorbed by the Government in the nature of an income tax which could be used for the common good. With regard to the question of direct participation in management they hold that this would greatly help to settle the misunderstanding between capital and labor.

Leave Tariff Alone.

Finally, touching on the question of fiscal policy, Mr. Foster said great care should be taken that the manufacturer shall not be given the opportunity to use the tariff for the purpose of clubbing unheard of profits out of the consuming public, neither should it be permitted that the farmer, who has no knowledge of the difficulties of the manufacturers, nor the conditions under which the working people have to live, be permitted to plunge the whole country into ruin by forcing a tariff reduction issue at this time. For the present they recommended that the tariff should be left absolutely alone until a scientific tariff commission was appointed.

To this end it was urged that a permanent tariff commission be established composed of representatives of all classes of labor.

In urging this commission they believed that the removal of the tariff question from politics would guarantee stability and progress not only to the workers, but to all sections of society throughout the Dominion.

Grave Danger.

"There is danger, grave danger, of terrible suffering among the people", concluded Mr. Foster, "and if it comes, it will be because of the ignorance and blindness of Canadians who are leading the affairs of the masses. In this emergency we have a plan to propose and it is this: let the Government call a convention truly and democratically representative of the people of Canada to discuss our troubles, our prospects, our problems, our plans and the future.

"Such a convention will arouse all people to the absolute necessity and understanding of acting in each other's interests, for the general good of all the people of the Dominion. In our opinion it would be possible at this convention to arrange for an armistice between the groups, whereby we might all forsake our burning ambitions and heart's desires for a limited and fixed time which would enable all of us to work together with but one object and aim, to truly reconstruct our country, to put an end to suffering and to build the future upon the solid foundation of the people's prosperity and happiness".

Mr. J. A. Woodward.

Mr. J. A. Woodward, president of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, declared: "Any reconstruction that does not have for its foundation education, is like building a house in a balloon 2,000 feet in the air, and pumping the gas out of it; it will fall."

"We have got to do something big in this country", Mr. Woodward emphasized, "if we are going to stop the present unrest. When Canada is big enough to send an army of nearly half a million overseas, is able to raise millions for victory loans, and when you see the accomplishments of the people of Canada during the last four years, I don't see why they cannot solve this unrest, and as a means of solving it I suggest first of all the calling together to a national convention the people representing every class of the population."

Commissioner Moore: "In that do you infer that the present Parliament does not represent the people of this country in its thought and actions?"

Mr. Woodward: "I think the Parliament should call this convention, because there is so much mistrust in the present Parliament."

Commissioner Bruce: "Then you would have a general election?"

Mr. Woodward: "We had better have one if it will help to stop the present unrest."

Continuing, he explained that at the convention, every kind of manufacture and labor could be represented, every city should be represented by its mayor and one alderman, and a committee could prepare in synopsis form all the measures that should be introduced to the convention.

"Such a convention held immediately would serve to re-establish confidence. There is a lack of confidence in this country at the present time, founded upon cause. The manufacturer has no confidence in labor, and labor has no confidence in capital, and the people have no confidence in the Government. It would be a good thing to call an armistice between capital and labor and the great unorganized public, and let us all get down together and understand each other."

Commissioner Moore: "Do you think a low paid worker to-day could exist pending the period of armistice?"

Mr. Woodward: "No, I do not think he could; we must have a minimum wage immediately."

Mr. Woodward went on: "I favor a tariff commission being appointed that would take the tariff out of politics. We don't intend to allow the manufacturers to rob the people, as many of them are now doing. At the present time the tariff is made a political football between two parties.

Mr. Woodward concluded: "The present form of government should be changed. At present 86 per cent. of the present Government are lawyers. What can you expect from legal minds except legal stunts?" This remark was applauded by people in the hall.

NO POLITICAL AMBITIONS

Lord Shaughnessy Denies Ottawa Rumor.

Lord Shaughnessy has no political ambitions. Interviewed, he made light of the rumor that had its origin in Ottawa. The federal arena or any other line of political endeavor has no attraction for him, according to his own statement. The story about the possible or probable creation of a Shaughnessy-Gouin coalition ministry he could not interpret as other than a figment of imagination.

"I am unable to account for the origin of such a report, nor have I any idea of the source from which it came", said Lord Shaughnessy, in referring to the Ottawa despatch. The idea that he would take on as a new enterprise the guidance of a political party appeared to him to be quite humorous. The suggestion that the reins of control of the C. P. R. were delegated to a younger man in order that he might be free to enter politics, was stated to be quite erroneous."

"Would it be correct to state that you have no political ambitions?"

"You may say that I have no political, social or any other sort of ambitions", was the reply.

The Way the Wind Blows

STAYING IN SCHOOL PAYING PROPOSITION.

The value of staying at school is stated in dollars and cents in figures compiled by the bureau of education and now being distributed to boys and girls throughout the country by the children's bureau.

From a study of a large number of actual cases it had been found that at 25 years of age the boy who remained in school until he was 18 had received \$2,000 more salary than the boy who left school at 14, and that the better-educated youth was then receiving more than \$900 a year more in pay.

"This is equivalent to an investment of \$18,000, at 5 per cent," the statement said. "Can a boy increase his capital as fast in any other way?"

"From this time on the salary of the better-educated boy will rise still more rapidly, while the earnings of the boy who left school at 14 will increase but little."

While wages have increased with the war, the proportions shown in a table of weekly earnings still hold true, the statement said. The boy who left school at 14 at the time the investigation was made received an average of \$4 a week, his wages increasing each year to \$7 a week at 18. The boy who remained in school until he was 18 began work at \$10 a week.

At \$20 the salaries were \$9.50 a week for the boy who left school early and \$15 for his better trained competitor. At \$25 they were earning \$12.75 and \$31, respectively, and total wages up to that time had been \$5,112.50 and \$7,337.50, so that the boy who remained in school had earned 50 per cent. more in eight years than the other had in 12 years.

UNION SAVINGS BANK.

The financial statement of the Tacoma Trades Union Savings and Loan association shows that this new institution in the first two months of its existence (March and April) has deposits of \$16,147, which is considered a creditable showing for a new co-operative institution. The state auditor credits the bank with being seventeenth in reference to savings and assets in the state. A large part of the bank's assets are in liberty bonds.

BISHOPS APPROVE EQUITABLE WAGES

"An equitable wage, which shall have right of way over rent, interest, and profits," is advocated by the Board of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in a letter addressed to the 20,000 Methodist pastors and the 2,250,000 Methodists communicants in the United States. The text of the social reconstruction programme reads partly as follows:

"It is increasingly manifest that there must be progress away from selfish competition to unselfish co-operation. If this progress is to be orderly and not violent, we must leave behind us the evils which lead to deplorable violence or counter-violence by either party. If Christianity is a driving force, making for democracy, we cannot put a limit upon the extension of democracy. We must recognize the inevitability of the application of democracy to industry.

"We favor collective bargaining as an instrument for the attainment of industrial justice and for training in democratic procedure.

"And we also favor advance of the workers themselves through profit-sharing and through positions on boards of directorship."

61 GRANT 48 HOURS.

The American Metal Polishers International union through its Our Journal gives a list of 61 firms that have recently signed agreements to put into effect the eight-hour day or 48 hours per week with increased wages. It also says that where shop agreements are still in existence no effort will be made to enforce the shorter work day, but at their expiration renewal of agreements will only be made on a basis of the 48-hour week.

LABOR IN COMMAND.

The "Manchester Guardian", discussing the Canadian labor troubles, remarks that labor in Canada has, until recently, been weaker politically than in any other parts of the Empire. The present upheaval cannot be conveniently accounted for by the familiar bogeys of Bolshevism and German machinations. Profiteering on a scale unknown in Britain has been rife. At the same time the scarcity of labor and vital importance of the ends to which it has been directed have made the workman realize that now, for the first time, the remedy for abuses is in their own hands. The demands of the strikers apparently are no more drastic than those which have already been conceded or promised in the United Kingdom.

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OUR LONDON LETTER

—London.

It is an ironic comment upon the vanity of human hopes that the nearer we approach to the signing of the Peace Treaty the further we seem to be from peacefulness. At the French Socialist Congress, the British Labor leader, Arthur Henderson, expressed the disappointment "felt by all the world" in the failure of the Peace Conference, to realize the high hopes raised by "fine idealism of President Wilson." He went on to say—"We were told peace would be made on the basis of the Fourteen Points, and we and the Germans are expecting this pledge to be redeemed, and not turned into scraps of paper". Yet, as he spoke, troops were on their way to Russia, nominally to relieve the British forces at Archangel, really to support Kolchak and other reactionary opponents of the present Russian Government; and Mr. Lloyd George, in his speech on the adjournment of Parliament, denied that there had been any question at the Peace Conference of recognizing the Bolshevik regime. The one reassuring point in that remarkably deft speech was the statement that there was to be no war of intervention in Russia.

What Labor Thinks

It is doubtful, however, whether Labor was reassured by this or any other statement in the Prime Minister's speech. On the same day the Triple Alliance of Labor met at Southport and decided to call for a National Conference of the Trades Union movement to consider the steps necessary to compel the Government to comply with Labor's demands regarding Russia, Conscription and the Blockade. This decision will have been strengthened by what has happened since in Hungary, where Roumania's act of aggression is being construed by Labor here as a blow struck by the Entente against a Socialist Republic. The foreign news service of the new Labor daily (the daily Herald) has done more than any propagandist campaign to open the eyes of the workers to what is going on abroad. The dispatches of N. H. Brailsford, the well-known publicist, who is in Hungary, are irrefutable proof of the anti-democratic policy of the Entente, as well as of the real constructive and peaceable basis of the new Soviet Government in Hungary.

India and Egypt.

Labor, too, is profoundly uneasy with regard to the disturbances in India and Egypt. An appeal to British Labor from the Young India party points out that while Indians were laying down their lives in a war to free democracies in Europe, the Rowlatt bills, "which reduce

every Indian to a state of abject slavery", were placed on the Indian Statute Book "in face of the united opposition of India". In Egypt the riots have been caused through a very similar disregard for the spirit of nationalism, which is being encouraged by our plenipotentiaries in Paris, when it manifests itself in the Poles or the Techecho-Slovaks. Small wonder that at most of the Easter conferences of workers, espe-

out meaning, too, were the decisions of the Shop Assistants to combine with the Co-operative Workers, and of the British Socialist Party to seek amalgamation with the other branches of the Socialist movement, the I. L. P. and the Socialist Labor Party. Industrially, perhaps the most important decisions of the Easter conferences were those of the teachers to demand equal pay for men and women, and of the garment workers, one of the worst existing sweated trades, to demand a universal 44-hours week, and a limitation of overtime to six hours weekly.

The obvious surprise of the judge in the Glasgow strikers' trial at the verdict of "guilty" against Shin-



The troubles of the capitalist who cannot find a resting place from labor's insistence on its rights is here depicted by the "Railway Review", London.

cially those of the Independent Labor Party and the British Socialist Party, resolutions were passed and hot discussions held on the whole subject of our foreign relations. At the I. L. P. meeting Philip Snowden, again elected chairman of the party, declared that the only permanent security lay in Internationalism, and that the new war would be one in which the democracies of all nations would be ranged against their hereditary oppressors and exploiters.

A significant resolution was that passed by the National Union of Teachers, "representing many thousands of teachers who volunteered for service during the war", which condemns the introduction of military training into schools. Not with-

well, Gallacher, Murray and McCarty, and the comparative lightness of the sentences passed by him, have acted as encouragement to the Scottish workers to start a movement, echoed in the Easter conferences here, for their speedy release.

The Week's Music.

Comic Opera has been worthily revived by the production of Messenger's "Monsieur Beaucaire", which has come to London from Birmingham. The new popularity of opera is likely to assure its success here, apart from the intrinsic charm of Messenger's tuneful music and the admirable rendering of the principal parts by Mr. Marian Green, from America, and Miss Maggie Teyte.

By Appointment



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Talking of opera, besides the Beecham season we are to have a season of grand opera at Covent Garden, with a promise of Melba among the singers, and a fine list of possible works to be performed, though none so interesting, perhaps, as Sir Thomas Beecham's production of Verdi's "Falstaff".

Eviction of Tenants.

The London County Council has just made itself unpopular with the National Union of Allotment Holders by passing a resolution to terminate the tenancies of allotments under its control. This means that the waste spaces which during the war have been used for the production of food, will no longer be available for this purpose, and incidentally, that the allotment holders, in most cases drawn from the workers, will be deprived of the pleasure of cultivating the land. They naturally feel it hard, after being acclaimed as patriots for four years, to be evicted in this way, and their union is making a determined stand against the official attitude.

Unemployment Problem.

Employment still fails to keep pace with demobilization, and the number of unemployed grew from 948,620 to 1,060,245 during March, of whom about half were women. During the same period of time the cost of living has slightly decreased, the net effect of the change in prices recorded has been to reduce the average percentage on the food

prices of July, 1914, from 120 on March 3, 1919, to 113 on April 1.

Conscientious Objector.

T. Corder Catchpool, a conscientious objector who was released from jail, after rather more than two years' imprisonment, holds the Mons medal for his services at the beginning of the war, when he went to France with the Friends' Ambulance Unit. His book, called "On Two Fronts", which related his experiences in Flanders, as well as those he went through in a military prison before being sent to a civil prison, is one of the best records we have of the conscientious objector's point of view. It was the introduction of conscription which forced him to return to England and take his stand beside those others, many Quakers like himself, whose conscience forbade them to take up arms.

Bishop and Women Preacher.

Miss Maude Royden, the eloquent preacher whose weekly sermons fill the City Temple to overflowing, has just fallen foul of the Established Church, to which, by the way, she really belongs, though hitherto the Non-Conformists have been almost alone in giving her the opportunity to preach. But when the enterprising rector of one of the oldest of city churches announced her as the preacher at the three hours' service on Good Friday, the Bishop of London interposed and forbade the service, and the crowd of worshippers who attended had to be content with a parish room so small that most of Miss Royden's congregation stood on the grass outside and listened through the open windows! To such lengths will sex prejudice take the most advanced of Bishops, though were it not for women, his own congregations would probably be halved.

Labor Accessions.

A good deal of sensation has been caused by the secession from the Liberal Party of two well-known Radicals, Dr. V. Rutherford, a former Liberal M.P., and Captain Wedgwood, an Independent Liberal M.P. elected to the present House of Commons last December, both of whom have just joined the Independent Labor Party. Another evidence, more moderate in direction, of the increasing dissatisfaction felt in Parliament at the failure of the Coalition Government to perform

its election pledges, is to be found in the rumored formation of a Centre Party, composed of the younger members both of the Liberal-Coalition and Unionist-Coalition groups, whose idea would be to draw up a non-party programme of a moderately progressive character. Speculations are rife as to whether Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law would not smile upon such a project.

Humor of the Week.

A very private wire from Dublin reports that Lord French is hoping he will be given no more Limericks to compose. An even more private wire suggests that there could have been no trouble over the Limerick in question if Lord French had provided it with a more suitable setting than a "special military aria".

Can it be that Lloyd George, so keen on push and go, disapproves of Northcliffe because he is so obviously behind the "Times"?

Among the new stories being demobilized with the men is that of a commanding officer of a force behind the lines who had the good luck to acquire a cow. The adjutant had a cottage with a garden, in which were some fine strawberries. One day the C.O. went into the garden and helped himself to the strawberries. The adjutant, unable to rebuke his chief, put up the following notice: "Trespassers in this garden will have their cow shot."

Evelyn Sharp.

LABOR GAINING GROUND.

The Industrial Banner carries the following interesting statement on the growth of the labor movement in Ontario:—

"It is remarkable how the organized labor movement in Ontario continues to make unabated headway. It is not in the one city or town alone that unionism is having a steady growth, but throughout the entire province. The big increase of the last year keeps on at full swing whether times are good, just middling or positively dull; it is the same. When the gain of the first four months of 1919 comes to be dealt with statistically it will be found that the increase in trades union membership will even eclipse the remarkable gains made in 1918, and, what is more, there is a reason why. The people who say trades unionism has had its day should think up some more before they talk out loud."

Union Journalists Presented Case Before Royal Commission at Montreal

Local Newspapers Did Not Give Full Report, Which Is Herewith Provided For Railroader Readers.

As none of the Montreal newspapers gave a complete report of the case presented by union newspapermen of Montreal to the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations last Saturday morning, it falls to the lot of the Canadian Railroader to supply the deficiency.

The first newspaper to be printed after the hearing, the Montreal Standard, dismissed the case of the newspapermen in a dozen words, although giving, in the same issue, four columns to an academic essay on remedies for unrest amongst workers. Some of the papers made a more or less cautious effort at reporting the case, and some ignored it altogether, inevitably giving rise to the thought that newspapers professing to be friends of workers, and, in some instances, making special features of labor news, might deal a little more kindly with the news of the organized workers in their own offices.

Many Canadian newspapers outside Montreal gave greater space to the case of the journalists than did most of the newspapers of the city, and a number of Canadian and American papers, scenting the news value of a story of unionized news writers before a Royal Commission, received special reports over the wires.

Incidentally, leading public men have since congratulated the union on the spirit and the thoroughness of the case presented.

Mr. John Richardson, of the editorial staff of the "Montreal Herald", and a trustee of the new Newswriters' Union, read the following statement to the Commission:

"The Newswriters Union of Montreal is an organization comprising seventy-five percent of the working journalists of this city and is duly chartered as an international union under the jurisdiction of the International Typographical Union of North America.

"It has been unanimously resolved by the executive of the Newswriters Union of Montreal, in agreement with the majority of the members, that in so far as lies in their power, two members of the Executive Board shall endeavor to lay before the Royal Commission the extent and causes of unrest that have been for several years existent among the journalists of this city.

"Therefore, the following causes ratified by the Executive Board and a majority of the members, are respectfully submitted as causes of unrest in so far as they affect journalists:

"1. The low rate of remuneration generally prevalent on most of the daily newspapers in Montreal, a rate which has remained nominally at the same figure during the past five years. In some cases, it has actually decreased, while the purchasing power of money, reckoned in the necessities of life, has decreased in a measure to make it increasingly difficult to exist under these conditions.

"2. No newspaper in Montreal recognizes the principle of the eight-hour day, with added remuneration for overtime. On Montreal daily newspapers the average work-

ing day of the journalist ranges from nine to eleven hours a day, and even twelve hours a day in some instances, seven days a week, practically every day in the year.

"In addition, longer hours are often necessitated by evening assignments on afternoon papers and morning assignments on morning papers, as well as Sunday work, which often makes the newswriters' working day anywhere from twelve to sixteen hours in duration.

"3. Few newspapers in Montreal recognize legal holidays, and no extra allowance is made for work done by journalists on such holidays.

"4. What is commonly known as 'overtime' is not recognized by any newspaper in Montreal. Journalists may be called upon to work as long as is deemed expedient or necessary by the employer without any provision for extra remuneration.

"5. The fact that enlistment for overseas service has brought about a reduction in the staffs of all Montreal newspapers, without proportionate replacement, often entails increased work for those who remained.

"6. Journalists have no recourse against personal discrimination and no protection against unmerited censure or dismissal.

"7. Montreal newspapermen have reason to believe that there is an understanding between certain newspapers against the exchange of newswriters.

"8. The journalists of Montreal have reason to believe that there has been, and still exists, opposition to

(Continued on page 11.)

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EDITORIALS

GEORGE PIERCE — EDITOR

THE PICAYUNE

UPTON SINCLAIR, who is writing a new book which deals with the subject of journalism, is in receipt of a letter from a man who has spent his life in the profession. We reprint extracts for your consideration. The writer of the letter was formerly city editor of an important Los Angeles newspaper. He is now stricken with tuberculosis. Among other things he says: — “The bitterness of our portion is this precisely: That we are hired prisoners, whose lot it is to kill the things we love most. To kill them not as bold buccaneers in a standup fight, but to slay them artfully, insidiously, with a half-true headline or a part suppression of fact.

“In my ten years of experience on various sheets, as reporter, editor and Associated Press representative I have come to know the masses with whom I had to deal. Their intellects were the pawns with which I must learn to play the editorial game. I knew, for instance, sitting at my desk, just how many extra papers I could sell with a scareline on a police scandal. I knew to how many men on the street the filthy details of some married woman’s shame would prove a lure to buy. And as I watched the circulation rise or fall, day by day, like a huge beating pulse, the systole and diastole of the headlines, I became familiar, somewhat, with the mental processes of the average human animal.

“It was my tragedy, as it is the tragedy, I think, of the majority of my fellows who rise above the unlicked-cub stage of newspaperdom that this knowledge, acquired always at a tremendous cost of our life’s energies, must be used, not for the uplift, but for the further enslavement, the drugging, of the minds of men. How many times have I sat at my desk, and, in apparently heartless fashion, cut the big truth out of the stuff men wrote — all by the token of loyalty to my stomach — all, and simply because I must do that or starve.

“Sometimes there were other moments in my life, as in the lives of the rest of my kind, when there were opportunities for sly sabotage. How we used to chuckle when we would succeed in passing a sly sentence — a word — over the sleepy night editor at the desk! Poor intellectual Pierrots that we were! Literary pantaloons!

“.....It was just another journalistic tragedy I had seen, but a great joy burst in upon me as I listened to him talk. ‘Things aren’t so bad, after all,’ I thought, ‘for the press at least isn’t any more rotten or venal than the rest of the system.’ In the editorial rooms of the country there are good fellows and true,

sheer tired of the daily assassination in which they participate. Their fine delusions are spent. Their faith in the old is waning. And when the big day comes I think you will find the press full of ripeness — riper perhaps, than most of our institutions — for the change.”


If you want to get an indication of how applicable this pen-picture of the newspaperman’s lot, may be to our own conditions, let us forget the tragedy for the moment. Take one little peek with me under the tent at the neat little situation in Montreal.

When the Industrial Relations Commission was in session at Montreal the organized newspapermen of the city appeared before the Commission to voice their studious views on questions of unrest and general welfare in their business. Seventy-five per cent of the men who write the news you read were officially represented on that occasion. They are called upon every day to interpret the kaliedoscopic life of the city and then they order and make it presentable for your perusal at the breakfast table. And now you may mingle your tears with your laughter in whatever proportion may suit your whimsical requirements. After days of preparation the newspapermen, at the indirect request of the government which had provided the Industrial Relations Commission, for this specific purpose, appeared before the Commission and presented some of the most sensible views placed in evidence up to this date.

One leading Montreal newspaper devoted exactly three lines to enlighten the good citizens of our great metropolitan city to the fact that the newspaper men of Montreal were conscientiously doing their duty to the community and their comrades in giving their evidence before the Commission and these are the words, the priceless, precious pearly words that this newspaper devoted to the issue: — “John Richardson and Louis Larivée presented evidence regarding journalistic conditions in the city.” The other papers skimmed the thing and others made no reference to it at all.

And at the same time on its editorial page one of our most powerful newspapers bemoaned the fact that when the Industrial Relations Commission was sitting in a western city the workmen refused to come before the Commission and thus deprived that body of valuable and much-sought information which would assist in allaying unrest.

So mingle your tears with your laughter. There is something so picayunish about the attitude of our daily press towards its newspapermen that I cannot help from pondering why some of our daily sheets fail to use the suggestive title so appropriately utilized by the famous newspaper of New Orleans, “The Picayune”.

 George Pierce.

THE CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1.)

people will depend upon the co-ordination of these groups. The convention was intended to be one of the first steps in this direction. At this point, I desire to call your attention, forcibly, that it is not in the interest of the orthodox labor movement to link the Winnipeg situation, as of this hour, with the Montreal trades union movement. To substantiate this I quote from the statement issued by Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, who has been a life-long trades unionist himself. The Minister says:

"In responding to the call, the majority violated and repudiated their obligations to their own trade unions and their contracts with their employers. Individually and collectively they wilfully discarded their agreements, indicating that the possession of what they are contending for is of little value.

"Labor organizations which require that contracts made be fulfilled, merit and command the respect of employers, of the public and of governments. Labor leaders who advocate that only might is right, who hold that law, justice and honor should be discarded at will, merit and receive the condemnation of all good citizens.

"If an employer or a number of employers in a given industry deny to their workmen the right to bargain collectively for the sale of their services, the entire force of the workmen may be properly directed against the offender and the public will approve and sympathize. In a general sympathetic strike, the force is directed against the whole community, who are innocent of any responsibility for the offence. Public indignation is immediately aroused because of the inconvenience, loss and suffering imposed upon innocent people. Therefore, sympathetic strikes must always fail.

"Socialism has long recognized that the trade unions are an impossible bar to its revolutionary programme and seeks through the One Big Union movement to undermine and destroy the labor organizations whose policy is to regard their obligations as sacred and inviolate. It has chosen the One Big Union idea as a popular primrose path along which to lead the trade unionist urging him to discard his honorable obligations and join the big show.

"In March last at Calgary the play was written. The Winnipeg strike is its first rehearsal with the main performance promised for a later date. The Winnipeg rehearsal has cost approximately two million dollars in wages lost in western Canada and has proven the play to have been badly written and unpopular with both the public and most of the performers.

"Employers must not mistake the outcome of the general sympathetic strike as a defeat to organized labor. On the contrary, labor will emerge from the conflict strengthened with the wisdom gained from its experience. Numerous strong labor organizations have by their voice and actions largely contributed to the outcome because they believe the general sympathetic strike is wrong, vicious and demoralizing. Employers should rather seek to deal justly and at this period liberally, with their workmen and assist the bona fide labor unions in their legitimate efforts to obtain a reasonable competence for all who are willing to labor."

All of which merely demonstrates, especially when viewed in the light of the spread of the One Big Union idea, that the confusion bubbling to the surface everywhere has at last touched the Canadian labor movement, but there is nothing startlingly significant about it, because there is confusion everywhere. The manufacturers are undecided on the questions of basic policies, factories are closing, unemployment is on the increase, markets for raw materials are dislocated, foreign markets are an unknown quantity, the farmer is virtually at war with the East demanding tariff reductions that will add further to the disorganization of the manufacturing interests. Working people are divided on the question of the One Big Union versus the orthodox international trade union plan, the churches are wrangling about doctrines of theology on the one hand and business amalgamation on the other, and the whole country finally is involved in a struggle that should be truthfully characterized as a class struggle between those who have much, and many who have something, as against the masses who have nothing and who are perfectly willing to lose that. We have a government elected to win the war and we have only the highest admiration for the energy, courage and ability displayed in that particular under-

taking, but in dealing with the present situation we are frankly in opposition because we believe that the men who constitute our government are incapable and unsuitable to manage the affairs of government during the period of reconstruction.

Before happiness can come to the people we shall need to reestablish confidence and to engender faith in one another. We shall have to wipe out the old bitterness, men will need to take office who have the confidence of the people at this hour and we believe that the convention which we propose will produce such men.

All trades unionists who have been approached on the question welcome the idea of a great national convention of all the people. To test the plan with the manufacturers the *Railroader* sent out a series of letter asking for opinions, and we were astonished and thankful for the many encouraging replies received. Very soon we shall make an effort to reach all the city councils of the municipalities of Canada, and at a later date we will give you their frank opinions. When all this work has been consolidated we shall present a final plea for a convention of all the people where we may discuss our problems and develop a solution of our difficulties. Come what may, it is patent to all that the workmen, the manufacturers, the farmers and the unorganized public must live together harmoniously. Then let us get together in one big hall and develop a plan or a method which will be acceptable to all sections. Let us debate each issue, section by section, until each detail is adjusted. Let us select men to carry out the will of this convention, who have courage and character and then, at its adjournment, let us step out into this great playground of ours, into the broad fields of this great Dominion in which it is our rare privilege and good fortune to live, and let us make it the happiest, the most cheerful, and the most prosperous land under the sun. We have fields as rich as any that may be found upon the earth, we possess mines loaded with treasures, we have the transportation systems as efficient as can be found anywhere in the civilized world, and we have the race, the young, vigorous, healthy, square and fair Canadians, we have everything *everything except a plan* and we have the brains to evolve a plan that will cheat the machine guns of their

prey, if we can only meet in a convention free from partisan politics with the inspiring idea of co-operation by all the classes to bring food, clothing and shelter to the people.

We will have stilled the unrest because we will have dried the tears, because we cheated the wolf of hunger of his prey. All the tools, all the material, is at hand. All that we need is an understanding and the understanding will come the first time we meet. If we of these four groups work together, in the end we can banish the slum, we can make poverty an unknown nightmare, we can march out of the fog that has held us in its pall, out into the light, out into the great throne-room of nature, where the bounties have been heaped up through interminable centuries for you and yours and for me and mine. In a land so rich in milk and honey, in a country where its people have enthroned and written deep in the marble of memory that the object of living is to be happy, that there is no higher ideal to which we may aspire than to be honored by people for whose happiness we have striven, there is nothing to fear from a convention and a world to gain, a world of peace and comfort and happiness and prosperity.

GEORGE PIERCE.

TRADE UNION COLLEGE.

A TRADE Union College has been opened in Boston. It is for members of the A. F. of L. and their immediate families. A strong faculty, giving part of their time from other university duties, will conduct courses in English, law, government, economics, labor organization and physics. The management of the College is in the hands of a Committee consisting chiefly of representatives of the Boston Central Labor Union.

A REFLECTION

Phyllis: "I don't care; I think Jack is really mean."
Annette: "Why, Phyllis?"
Phyllis: "He wrote to me from Africa saying he had shot an alligator seven feet long, and when he shot another he would have a pair of slippers made for me."—Sydney Bulletin"

The WOMAN'S FORUM

Rose Henderson *BLIND TO EVERYTHING - BUT THE TRUTH*

WOMAN AND PEACE

There sits in Versailles four accredited "great men", representing the four "great nations", who have had delegated to them, by a small, very small group of men the stupendous and important task of bringing out of the "great war" to a crucified world a formula for world peace. On this delegation the women of the world have no place.

After sitting for the past six months these "great men", if reports are true, seem to be no nearer peace than they were when they started. No nation or group seems to be wholly satisfied, to have confidence in them, or belief that world peace is at hand. Suspicion and intrigue are rife everywhere. The world is haunted with the spectre of revolution and famine. Justly may the people question the power of men whose particular duty it was to keep the nations out of war to bring about a peace satisfactory to the peoples of the world—a world sickened, saddened and quivering to its doom.

Without a Voice.

There is one very remarkable thing about this peace conference; one half of humanity, namely women, have no say as to peace or future wars. Is it possible that in these four nations there is not a woman whose intelligence and service to humanity has not earned for her the right to sit and discuss questions of such vital importance as war and peace?

The world is convulsed by the agony and tears of women and children. Their cries and moans have shaken the thrones of kings. Their tears and the blood of their sons have washed away the foundations of civilization as we knew it five years ago. Tearstained and blood-dripping, a charred and blackened mass, civilization is whirling itself madly to destruction and in its ashes is arising a new civilization which will lay the first solid foundation for peace and the international solidarity of the people.

Oneness of Humanity.

Responsibility for the peace that is to be must not and cannot be borne by four men, no matter how great. There can be no peace until men recognize the oneness of humanity and that women are part of that humanity. Ten million men, the sons of ten millions mothers, lie buried in Europe. Other millions are maimed and brutalized almost beyond recognition. Countless others have suffered the agonies of hell on earth, every one of whom was

given life by some woman risking her life and nurtured and educated by some woman. A woman somewhere, somehow, managed to bring these men to maturity. It was wo-

wife, sister or sweetheart. Woman was first at the cross and will be the last to leave.

Stones of Revolution.

"A war", men say, and the whole world becomes an armed camp. The demons of hate, greed and lust hold sway. The lowest, basest passions of mankind are extolled and

terms, the stones of revolution are falling round the palace where they confer and wild men are screeching through the key hole."

Their peace is founded on sex rule, man-made, man-administered, sustained on force, founded on balances of power, secret treaties, spheres of influence, indemnities, and conquest of territory. Such a peace cannot and will not endure. The people who fought the war, the people who suffered and died that nations might be free, the people, men and women, who were to pay "to the last dollar and the last man" must evolve a peace, founded on love, justice and fellowship with all nations, an international solidarity which will make future wars impossible. Neither in the making of war or in the making of peace have women been consulted.

Their Eyes are Dimmed.

The men who made the war, like the men who are now trying to make peace, are old, very old. They think in terms of markets, dreadnoughts and profits. They are incrustated in the barnacles of a by-gone age. Their eyes are dimmed. They hear not the cry of the multitudes for release and freedom. They see not the light of the new day. They progress steadily backwards. They imagine that this war is like other wars and that like them it will end in victory for one group, which means defeat for another. It has not dawned on them that this war is unique, that it is world-wide and international. New ideas and new desires have been born in the hearts of the people of all lands. Hundreds of thousands of men and women have realized their strength and greatness for the first time and are now determined to put his new-

Agonized Motherhood: "My Sons, All These are My Sons."



man who bore the first agonies of war. It was woman who sat and wept or prayed the long night through. It was woman who cheered and kept her "man's" spirits high. When his courage flagged and his heart grew faint at the horror of it all, her memories, her words of cheer, her faith in the justice of his sacrifice, spurred him on and sent him "over the top". Woman followed him into the jaws of death to bind up his wounds, moisten his fevered lips, soothe his pain and hear his last message to mother,

sanctified without any reference whatever to woman. "An armistice", men say. Again men get together, select other men, invest them with unlimited powers to bring about peace. No woman graces his gathering to represent the millions of women whose bodies and hearts are torn, whose sufferings are as great, if not greater, than those of the men who have gone through the torture of the battle field. But peace cannot be ordered as easily as was war. "While the peace makers sit, discussing peace



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found power into action in all the councils of the world. Together these men and women of the common people will hammer out on the anvil of their own reason a new civilization born of a new consciousness, inspired with new humanitarianism worthy of the sacrifice of the millions of their sons.

The people are dead, long live the people!

Women's Suffering.

Never in the history of the world have women suffered more than during the past four years and never was there greater need for representation of women, by women, in all the councils of the world. If the shattered homes of the teeming towns and cities of Europe could yield up their records and to them be added the women and children stricken and ravished by disease, crime, famine and man's lust, millions of women and children would be added to the record of war. Of this horrible side of war we hear but little. This grim and ghastly tale of war is carefully concealed, and will be until women demand a look in at men's dark and secret doings.

An armistice has been declared, but no armistice has yet been declared in the world of woman. Woman must now, as ever, take up the weapons of war at her command and continue to fight man's ancient and worst enemies. Millions of men are returning battle-scarred, mentally and physically disabled, diseased in body and soul—back to what is left of the homes they once knew. During their absence their womenfolk tried with all their might to keep the fires of love and hope burning, but try as they would the force of man's lust for gold has consumed them and left but empty shells. The burden of the after-war wreckage will fall most heavily on woman. Thousands of her sons will hobble through life. Thousands will grope their way in darkness. Untold numbers will endure a living death, insane and wrecked from disease. She will bring children into the world diseased in body and enfeebled in mind. In every part of the earth are thousands of little children who know not the origin of their birth. Orphans will peer at their mother from every opening with outstretched hands pleading for their birthright.

Well may agonized motherhood look out on a war-stricken world and ask why all this horror and destruction of their children and their homes should be. The mothers of the world, the mothers of the new day, from now on will insist on being heard on every important question that has the welfare of the race at stake. Men have broken faith with the world of mankind. They cannot bring peace and life to the world alone. Women must aid in abolishing war, hate, race and religious prejudices, and destroy the ungodly desire of men for wealth, power and domination.

Women must not only be creators of men. They must also be the teach-

ers of men and the creators of ideals. They must ever hold up the one and only truth which will save mankind from another repetition of the horror into which men have plunged the world. The ideal of the brotherhood of man, the sisterhood of woman, the fraternity of the world, must be constantly before them.

UNION JOURNALISTS

Continued from page 7.)

organization among the journalists of the city.

"As remedies for the present unrest we recommend:

"1. The right of journalists to organize without prejudice to position.

"2. Recognition of the Union by the employers. By this is meant the right of the Union to negotiate with the employers with regard to the wages and working conditions of its members.

"3. A greater spirit of co-operation between employers and news-writers, having in view the bettering of the professional standard."

"If", proceeded Mr. Richardson, "you were to ask the average newspaperman who has an opportunity of meeting his fellow citizens very widely as to the cause of the present labor unrest, I think I would say the general recognition by the people of this country that there is unbounded wealth among the few and unbounded poverty among the many. As a remedy for this, I think this Commission is doing splendid work in finding out the causes. If you will allow me to suggest one remedy, I think it would be the restriction of the exportation of Canadian foodstuffs, until the demands of the Canadian people had been met at home. Charity begins at home in the matter of foodstuffs."

He said that the leasing system of the City of Montreal was responsible for much of the trouble at present and while he knew it was a matter of provincial jurisdiction, he would suggest that the Commission embody in its report a suggestion to the provincial authorities in Quebec that this matter be looked into at an early date.

Mr. Louis Larivée, "Montreal Daily Star", and also a trustee of the Newswriters Union, said: "I am here to represent the French newspapermen. I wish to state that my confreres on the French newspapers do not receive living wages. At the time the war was declared the wage on the French newspapers was \$20 a week for the star reporter. My wages at the time were reduced to \$16 a week. The other newspaper men had to put up and contend with the twenty per cent cut and that wage has never been increased since. I was forced under these conditions to study the English language and become a bilingual reporter. The French newspaper men experience great hardships.

Commissioner White: "That is the price paid on the four newspapers? The average is about sixteen dollars?"

Mr. Larivée: "I was referring particularly to one paper out of the four, which had not given an increase. The three others, I believe, are paying about the same price.

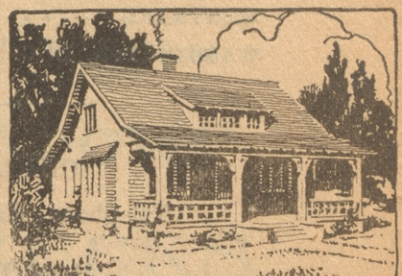
Commissioner Moore: "Are the wages on the other French newspapers fairly high?"

Mr. Larivée: "On the other papers the highest wage is \$25 a week. We are not averse to standing for our share of the war, but when we see some of the French newspaper owners splashing around with their wealth and their reporters getting a bare pittance we feel that we must seek redress. They are making money. I have been twenty-two years in the newspaper business and I find it necessary to educate myself in the English language and become a bilingual reporter in order to live. For fourteen years, when I had from two to five children to bring up, and we Frenchmen have large families, I was getting wages from \$12 to \$18 a week. When I had seven children I was getting \$20 a week.

"The newspaper reporter is supposed to be a man of the world. He is called upon to wear fairly good clothes, for in the morning he may be interviewing the lieutenant-governor, although in the evening investigating a murder down in the slums.

"If you ask me to state what in my opinion is the cause of the unrest I would say that it is the needless flaunting of wealth shown by the people who have the wealth. A short time ago, in Montreal, we had a Charity Ball, and it was shameful how the wealth was splashed about, flaunted in the faces of those union men who were called upon to be present. It is really an outrage to the working people. The news-writers, I contend, did a good deal to win this war, and I believe we should be recognized. Let me tell you that the newspaper reporter reflects the opinion of the people more than his editors. There are only two papers who treat their employees at all decently, and these are two of the English papers. The others, I contend, are treating their employees unjustly."

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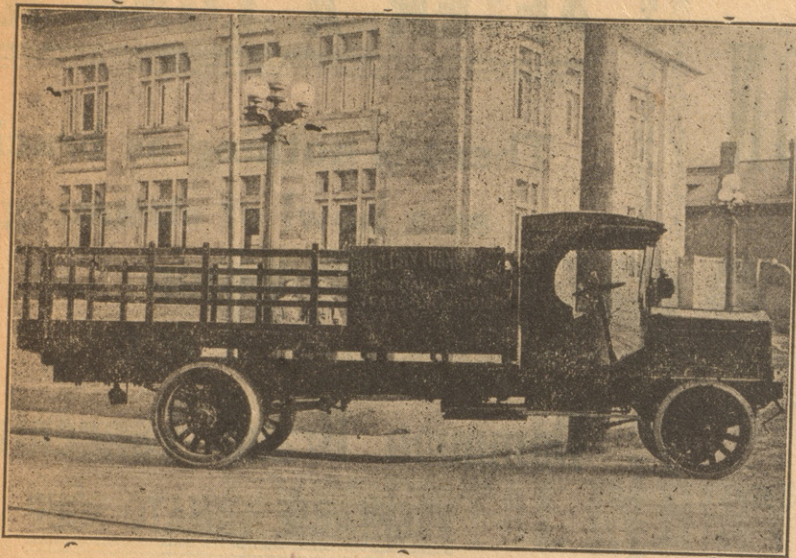
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